



Allandale Neighbor

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Allandale Tree Survival Guide

Angela Caras

I have flown into Austin from the West Coast twice in the past few months. The first time, in July, I was saddened to see so much of what should have been productive farmland burnt brown by the drought. The second time, in mid-September, I was shocked by the large number of what were clearly dead and dying trees –as many as one-fourth of the trees in the Hill Country were brown. Of course, that's out

in a rural area, and people can't be expected to water large amounts of woodland, but as the plane flew lower over Austin, just north of Allandale, I could see the same thing in our own neighborhood –maybe 10-20 percent of the trees that make up our beautiful urban forest had turned brown or were losing their leaves.

Did you know that large trees can reduce your electricity bill, reduce the amount of watering your lawn needs, and increase the value of your home? Real estate agent and Allandale resident Brandon Faught says that "given two equal homes on equal sized lots in Allandale, the one with large mature well-maintained trees ... can have a value of \$10,000 to \$20,000 more." One thing that draws people to Allandale is our wonderful trees.

Conversely, a dead or dying tree will end up costing the homeowner in one way or another. A post on the Allandale ListServ last month reported that someone's tree had fallen on her house. Even if your tree doesn't fall on your house, it can be expensive to remove. One neighbor told me that she paid \$750 to have a

tree removed, "and it wasn't even a big tree." Removing a large tree from a backyard could "cost a couple thousand dollars if it's a really big tree," says Master Arborist Keith Brown, owner of Austin Tree Experts.

Clearly, then, it is in the homeowner's best interest to take care of his or her trees. But how to do this during what looks to become the worst drought in Texas history? Of course it is crucial to water trees during this drought, but it is also very important to know how to water them. One thing many people may not realize is that sprinkler systems are set up to water lawns and may not provide sufficient water for trees. "Just sprinkling it and making the grass look green doesn't do anything for the tree," says City of Austin arborist Michael Embesi.

How can you determine if your trees are getting enough water? According to Don Gardner's Watering Guide for Texas, for trees to benefit from a watering, you need to make sure the soil is moist five inches down, one day after you water your yard. A simple test is to see how far a screwdriver can be easily inserted into

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The next ANA EC Meeting is October 27, 6:30 p.m., at the Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive. The meeting is open to the public.

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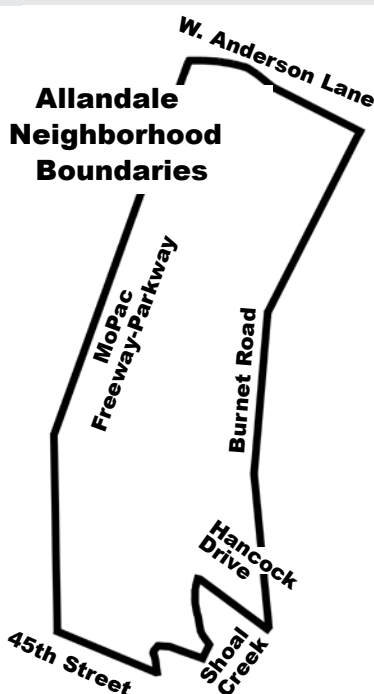
ANA General Meetings are held March and September on the fourth Thursday.

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ANA President's Letter

Cynthia Keohane

Effective October 2011, ANA Board and General Meetings will be held in the newly-renovated Northwest Recreation Center, at 2913 Northland Drive.

Some good news: the City of Austin updated the Comprehensive Plan Preferred Growth Scenario map to show a Neighborhood Center as opposed to a Town Center at Anderson Lane and Shoal Creek Boulevard. The difference between the two is the projected number of residents, according to Steven Zettner: a Town Center can have two to three times as many residents and businesses as a City Center. At the October 1 Imagine Austin Release Party, I talked with Greg Claxton, City of Austin Planner, and confirmed on the map that staff had implemented the change they agreed to make. See August meeting minutes for more information, and kudos to Steven Zettner for his hard work on this issue.

The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) has an excellent slate of officers for 2011-2012; these officers will be formally presented and voted on at a special general meeting on October 27, right before the regularly scheduled EC meeting. The vote was scheduled for the September general meeting but was not held due to lack of a quorum. The new board takes office at the end of the general meeting and the new president will conduct the Executive Committee meeting of the new board.

Two of us are going off the board, due

to term limits: George Roman and me. Two other board members are not running for another term, due to family and/or work pressures: Sara Sternberg and Mat Thompson. Thanks to all for their service to Allandale!

The slate, which I am very pleased to announce, is:

Donna Beth McCormick, President
David Mintz, Vice President
Karen Knight, Secretary
Diane Swinney, Treasurer
Joi Chevalier, Board Member at Large
Laura DiCarlo, Board Member at Large
Dan Diener, Board Member at Large
Brian Glass, Board Member at Large
John Keohane, Board Member at Large
Peggy Maceo, Board Member at Large
Jeff Marshall, Board Member at Large

In my year as president, I came to appreciate the different challenges we face depending on where we live. Near MoPac, it's the sound from MoPac and the current question of sound walls; near Burnet, the challenge of nearby commercial development; at Shoal Creek, co-existing with cyclists and getting out of the driveway on race days. And this year, many neighbors face weeks and months of inconvenience during storm sewer construction.

Each spring, Allandale becomes a huge yard sale Mecca. When July 4 comes, the kids line up in their costumes and on their bikes, the parade starts, and we have a little magic in Allandale. And in the fall, many of us get together for a night out against crime. These and other neighborhood-building events are possible because neighbors join ANA and many of us volunteer. Please join ANA and be a part of it.

Thanks to the many folks who helped me as my "guaranteed three month-only term" became a full year, especially Donna Beth McCormick, Anne Argyle, and my husband, John Keohane.

I look forward to continuing my involvement in Austin Neighborhoods Council and on various neighborhood issues. ❖

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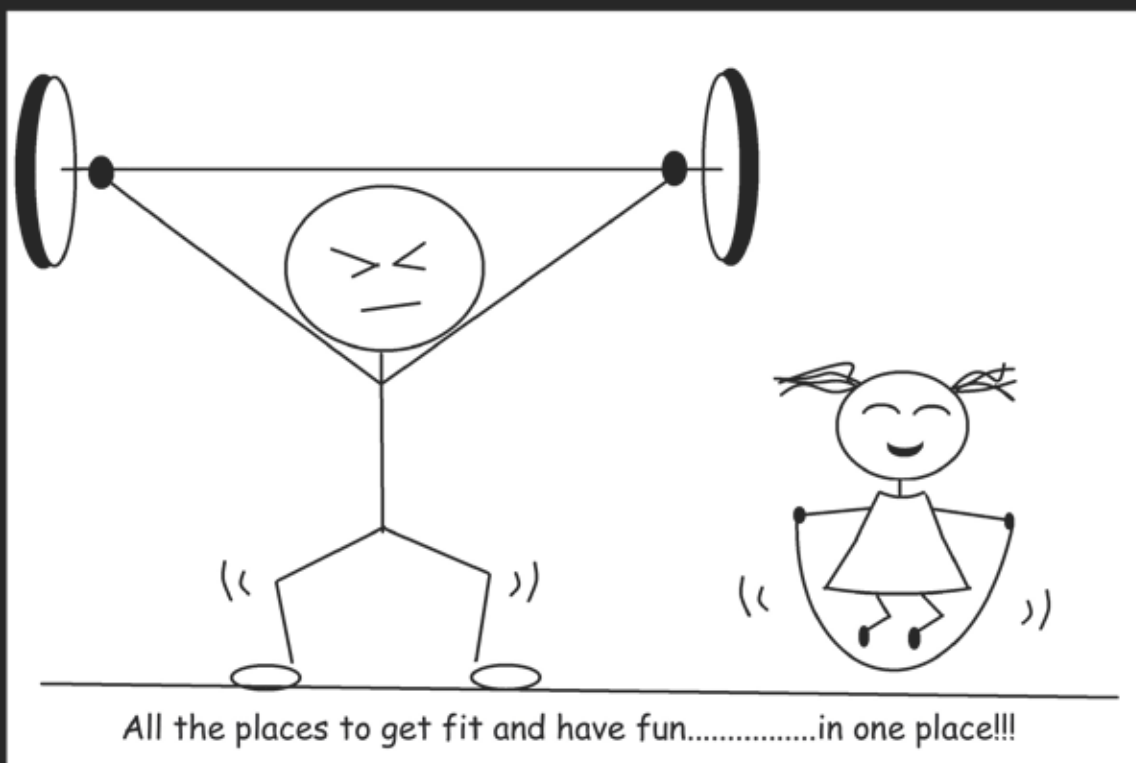
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Allandale Tree Survival Guide

Continued from front page

the lawn—that's how deep the water got. If it didn't reach five inches, you didn't water long enough.

A sprinkler system typically won't soak the ground to a five-inch depth, so it is not the best way to provide water to your trees. Trees need to be watered slowly and deeply. If you water too much too fast you may have more water run off than soaks into the ground. This is especially the case if the ground is already dry or if you're on a slope. Brown says that if you have a steep slope, you need to water your tree for 15 minutes at a time, four times a day, if you're watering it with a hose. Of course, this is not terribly practical for most homeowners. Luckily there are better and easier ways to water your tree.

Probably the best way to water your tree is to get a nice long soaker hose and loop it around the tree several times. According to the City of Austin tree watering guidelines, a very young tree has an immature root system, so you want to water it mostly around the planting area (you might want to water a little beyond that area, though, to encourage the roots

to grow out). For a more mature tree, you want to water the area that is directly under the foliage, but not too close to the trunk. Once you get your hose set up, let it run at a nice slow drip for as long as it takes for the water to reach down five inches into the soil. You might need to leave the drip hose going all night.

Another way to water your tree is with a hose-end sprinkler. Don Gardner recommends the cheap kind that just sprays a cone of water into the air. Set it low enough that you can see the droplets—if you see mist, the water pressure is too high; that mist is just going into the air, not your tree.

The watering methods just described can only be used during your once-a-week watering day. Of course you can hand water at any time, but you'll be out there for a while if you really want to give your tree enough water. Another method that can be used any time is the drip-bucket method: you go out and get a bunch of five-gallon buckets (they sell them at home improvement stores, but sometimes you can get them for free from restaurants) and drill two 1/8-inch holes at the bottom. Fill them with water and let them slowly drip out into the ground. Go inside and watch some football, then come out and fill them up

again. Repeat until the ground is soaked.

How often should you water your trees? Embesi says you should aim to water your trees thoroughly twice a month: "You want to try to emulate [the pattern of] a rainfall, which is typically a good inundation every couple of weeks."

What about mulching trees? The arborists I spoke with stressed the importance of mulch: "In a perfect world, the entire yard would be a four-inch layer of mulch," says Brown. Embesi would like to see at least 10-15 feet of mulch around the base of a tree, "like a natural forest floor." Mulch provides critical nutrients that your yard soil may lack and also helps keep soil moisture from evaporating. However, you don't want to over-mulch, and it is crucial to be sure that the water you provide for your tree is reaching five inches into the soil below the mulch, meaning that after you water the tree you need to brush aside a patch of mulch until you see bare dirt, and make sure that the water reached five inches down into that soil.

So let's say that you've done everything you could, but your tree still looks unhappy. How can you tell if the tree is just stressed or whether it is, in the words of Embesi, "in a tight spiral of decline" and will die no matter what effort you put into



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it? Some common signs of tree distress are leaf curl, tip dieback (where you can see bare twigs sticking out of the canopy of the tree), early leaf discoloration, and leaf drop, which is often accompanied by the twigs setting buds. According to Embesi, leaf drop is a sign of stress and also a technique that trees use to survive drought: “they will lose their leaves early so they don’t have to use all that energy to maintain the leaves.” At this point, you can still save your tree. Embesi says that it can take months or even years for a tree like this to finally die.

Embesi says that determining when a tree has reached the point of no return is difficult, but some signs include dropping branches (self-pruning), significant bark loss (meaning that the tree is decaying under the bark), and fungus (black spots) on the branches and trunk. Brown says that a tree whose leaves have turned brown and not dropped is a tree that will not make it.

Brown says that many trees that are showing signs of stress, particularly those that have dropped their leaves and set

buds, “are at severe risk to die over the winter.” If they’re going to make it, these trees need to be kept watered through the winter.

Of course, the sad fact is that some trees are just not going to make it through this drought. What trees should you plant to replace your lost trees? Embesi recommends a pamphlet put out by the Arbor Day Foundation, called “The Right Tree in the Right Place” (see resources at the end of this article for its internet location). Brown’s recommendations, specifically for Allandale, are live oaks, crepe myrtles, and red oaks (for sloped yards) and bur oaks, cedar elms, and Mexican sycamores (for flat yards). He notes that Chinquapin oaks and Monterrey oaks have become popular due to their resistance to oak wilt, but since they’ve only been planted in Austin for 12-15 years, “they haven’t stood the test of time yet, and there is an element of risk with these trees.”



Dead tree (on the right) at Northwest Park

RESOURCES:

City of Austin web page on taking care of trees in drought: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/downloads/watering_guidelines.pdf

How to get a free soil moisture monitor: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/conservation/soilmoisturemeters.htm>

“The Right Tree in the Right Place”
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Highlights from the August ANA Executive Committee Meeting

Cynthia Keohane

Steven Zettner from Sustainable Neighborhoods (and an ANA member) reported on a problem with the Comprehensive Plan Preferred Growth Scenario map. City staff had included a "Town Center" at Anderson Lane, and Steven called this to the attention of the Presidents of the Allandale and North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Associations (NSCNA). At Cynthia's request, Steven represented Allandale and worked with city staff and NSCNA to reduce the density. City staff have agreed to downsizing it to a neighborhood center. Steven was given a round of applause for his accomplishment.

Dan Diener reported seven new member households, a total of 416 members.

Cynthia reported congratulations to Donna Beth McCormick, ANA immediate past president, are in order. She has been appointed to the City of Austin Ethics Commission.

Maurice Anderson, chair of Allandale's short term rental (STR) committee, provided an update. The ANA committee is working with other neighborhoods to control commercial STRs in residential neighborhoods. ❖

Highlights from the September General Meeting

Cynthia Keohane

Dan Diener reported a total of 422 member households.

The election of new Allandale Neighborhood Association Executive Committee members was postponed due to lack of a quorum. Bylaws require at least 25 members present for a vote, and there were 23 present at the time of the planned vote.

Sari Waxler, Executive Director of the Seedling Foundation, spoke about their mentoring program. It is a school-based mentoring program for elementary and middle school children with a parent in prison. AISD has at least 5,000 students with one or both parents in prison. Lamar Middle School is being added to their mentor program, and Seedling is looking for volunteers. More information is at <http://www.seedlingfoundation.net>, or call 512-323-6371.

Ora Houston and Scooter Cheatham, members of the Comprehensive Plan Citizens' Advisory Task Force, provided an update on the plan and answered questions. They have many concerns about the process, for example, the concurrent development processes of the Comprehensive Plan, I-35 corridor plan,

Airport Boulevard Plan, and Burnet Road plan mean that even the most engaged activist cannot be involved in all the plans. Ora and Scooter encouraged neighbors to look at the draft comprehensive plan online and provide input. More information is at <http://www.imagineaustin.net/getinvolved>. ❖

Short Term Rental (STR) Update

Maurice Anderson, mfaancon@aol.com
Chairman, STR Committee, ANA

Although the Board of Adjustment ruled in June that rental of a home in a residential neighborhood for less than 10 days violates City of Austin code, Austin's Planning and Development Review Department is not enforcing this decision. Instead, the City of Austin (CoA) is waiting for City Council to pass a new ordinance.

As Cynthia reported in the August 2011 newsletter, the three Planning Commission members from the Codes and Ordinances committee, Mandy Dealey, Sandra Kirk and Danette Chimenti, who sponsored the STR working group, provided their own recommendation at the July Codes and Ordinances meeting. At that meeting, a number of questions were raised and the recommendation was

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referred to city staff. The resolution referred to staff asked staff to provide proposed code that represents the intent of the commissioners' recommendations.

At a September Codes and Ordinance Committee, City Staff provided a written response, answering some questions but asking for clarification on other questions. The original commissioners along with a new commissioner agreed to review the staff response and attempt to provide answers to their questions by the end of October.

There are a number of additional steps before a draft ordinance becomes law: Codes and Ordinance Committee recommends an ordinance to the full Planning Commission; Planning Commission conducts a public hearing; Planning Commission votes its recommendation to City Council; and Council holds at least one public hearing, and votes.

In addition to monitoring the ordinance progress, the Allandale Neighborhood Association STR committee is working to educate other neighborhoods

about this issue.

Recently the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) rolled out a draft position statement that will be discussed and likely voted on in late October at the next ANC meeting. It, along with numerous position papers from high density neighborhood associations in central Austin, opposes the use of homes in residential neighborhood for commercial short term rental use. ❖

The Votes Have Been Counted on the Great Northern Boulevard Sound Walls

Tom Linehan

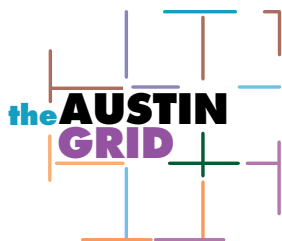
Based on the ballots received by the MoPac Improvement Project Team from adjacent property owners, the sound wall north of Far West to Foster, Sound Wall #2, was voted down and will not be constructed. Six adjacent property owners voted for it, 10 voted against it, and four did not respond.

The sound wall south of Far West to 2222 along Great Northern Blvd, Sound Wall #3, was voted for by a margin of 26

to 3, with 16 no responses. Because this sound wall will be constructed in the City of Austin's right-of-way, it will now go to the Austin City Council for approval. There were a total of three sound wall segments out of 23 proposed along MoPac that were voted down. You can get more information about the outcome of the vote and the project at the MoPac Improvement Project website: www.mopac-express.com. ❖



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Burnet Road to Get Extreme Makeover

Steven Zettner, President of Sustainable Neighborhoods

On September 22, The City of Austin kicked off the visioning phase of a Burnet Road transportation study that could lead to sidewalks, bike lanes and other changes. The meeting, held at St. John's United Methodist Church near Lamar MS, drew about 60 people.

According to City planners and consultants, the study will define a series of short-, medium-, and long-term projects for Burnet Road from 2222 all the way north beyond 183 to MoPac. The City hopes to use various sources, including federal transportation dollars and bonds, to fund these projects. The same team is studying Lamar Boulevard north of 183.

In introducing the study, team members said that traffic on Burnet is already bad and will get worse. Level of Service (LOS) indicators for Burnet south of 183 are at "D" and "E", meaning pretty congested. North of 183, LOS is "D" and "F", or failing. By 2025, at current trends, all of Burnet will be at failing. The City's strategy for saving Burnet is not to add more lanes, since studies show that adding lanes just invites more traffic. Instead, the focus is on encouraging other modes of transportation, like walking, biking and transit.

Meeting participants wrote ideas and

concerns onto large maps of the corridor. They also had the opportunity to prioritize how they would allocate funding to support driving, walking, biking or taking transit.

Many participants said they prioritized sidewalks and other pedestrian safety improvements, especially at intersections, bus stops, and near schools like Lamar.

Project team members told participants that approval has already been given to install bike lanes on Burnet next summer starting at Burnet Lane, and proceeding north to 183. This is consistent with the City's Bicycle Plan. One participant, a resident of downtown who works north of 183, said he came to the meeting just to support such a proposal. A Burnet Road route is the only feasible way he can ride his bike to work.

However, many local residents raised safety concerns, especially for young and less experienced riders. Alternative solutions for bicycle access floated in discussion groups included "cycle tracks" (bike lanes physically buffered from the road) or extra-wide sidewalks.

Linda DuPriest, the project team mem-



Burnet Rd facing north across from Lamar Middle School

ber specializing in pedestrian and bike improvements, acknowledged that cycle tracks segregated from the road might be preferred for the family-friendly vision of Burnet Rd advocated by many local residents. However, she said cycle tracks are expensive. They require both a great deal of study and a specific set of roadway conditions for them to be feasible. Restriping lanes is cheaper and can be implemented faster. She said the team is also looking at the excessive number and size of driveways, which can be dangerous to pedestrians.

Sustainable Neighborhoods (SN), a non-profit organization seeking family- and neighborhood-friendly corridors in North Central Austin, communicated two top goals for Burnet: assuring child safety and reducing vehicle traffic and congestion. Regarding specific changes, SN prioritized sidewalks first, and pedestrian improvements for the areas leading to rapid bus stations second. Capital Metro plans to introduce rapid bus service on Burnet in 2013, including stations at Ohlen, Northcross Boulevard, 2222, North Loop, 49th Street and 45th Street. Many of these station sites are currently hard to reach and inhospitable.

The study's public input phase was not without mishaps. The meeting time conflicted with the Allandale Neighborhood Association general meeting. Study team members said they have additional meetings planned in October with key stakeholders, including neighborhood associations.

People can still provide feedback to the study group. Send a courteous email to Beverly Silas at bsilas@beverlysilas.com.

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Meet Doris Hutton, an Allandale Original

By Gerard Alcala, Linda (Harty) Alcala and Elena Alcala

One of our neighbors, Doris Hutton, is an original Allandale resident, living in her home for 60 years. She is the first and only resident of her home.

Mrs. Hutton can be found working in her yard four or five hours a day year round. Her beautiful yard is a place where many Allandale residents stop and visit with Mrs. Hutton and with each other.

Doris Hutton is full of wonderful advice and wisdom, is a surrogate grandmother to our daughter, and is a friend to all three of us. Our family recently visited with her.

What was Allandale like when you first moved here?

There were only five homes on our street. We were at the north end of the city, with bluebonnet fields stretching from Nasco to Burnet. Everything north of our street was cow pasture. One morning, I looked out my kitchen window and was face to face with a cow. The

neighborhood streets, including Shoal Creek Boulevard were not paved. There were no trees in the neighborhood!

We made a concerted effort to add trees to our yard, and we noticed other families doing the same. Sixty some years later, we can see the fruits of our labor.

You spend a lot of time in your yard. Have you always been a gardener?

Growing up, our family had a huge garden for growing vegetables that fed our family. I learned how to garden a bit then, but much of what I have learned has been by reading and trial and error.

When I was working and caring for my family, I didn't have as much time to garden. After retiring, I began to dedicate more time to my yard. I enjoy meeting the people in the neighborhood and sharing flowers with them. People are busy



Doris Hutton, Photo by Marty Butler

with their lives and I enjoy having a beautiful spot that everyone can enjoy.

You frequently share new dishes with our family. Have you always liked to cook?

When I got married, I had no idea how to cook! So, I bought a cookbook and started experimenting. It took me all morning to prepare the lunch meal and all afternoon to prepare dinner. Little by little, I learned how to be more efficient. I still enjoy trying new recipes.

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Meet Doris Hutton, an Allandale Original

Continued from page 9

You often say that you remember how challenging it was to work, get everyone out the door on time, get dinner on the table, etc. Tell us a little about your career.

I attended college on a partial music scholarship, receiving a degree in education and English with a minor in music. My first teaching position was in a small school in a rural ranching community. After several years of teaching, I moved to Austin in order to further my education.

While my husband was overseas serving in WWII, I raised our baby daughter and worked on a master's degree in music at UT. My first position after receiving my degree was teaching music at Ridgetop Elementary on 51st street. That year, my student teacher and I coordinated a big production and had the students create backdrops and scenery to complement the music for the show. The principal took notice and named me the new music and art and teacher—even though I

had no formal art training! I protested, but he insisted, so I ventured to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico to study art. My daughter and I traveled by train from Nuevo Laredo. This was the beginning of my love affair with Mexican art and culture.

Before long, UT was sending me student art teachers—up to four a year. The principal at Ridgetop was re-assigned, and I wanted to go with him and some of his key staff. The district declined and I gave my notice. When I contacted UT to let them know I had resigned, they insisted that I go work at UT.

Can you imagine the shock of going from a blue collar school to the sophisticated world of the university? I continued my studies in Mexico and taught myself how to weave. I lasted 21 years at UT.

You made lifelong friends along the way?

Yes, one of my third grade art students became one of my very good friends—and she lives in the neighborhood. I became friends with three generations of the family whose hotel I stayed in while studying in Mexico.

What words of wisdom do you have for us?

Be kind to everyone you meet. Their sorrows may be greater than you know. Always have little friends, friends your age and friends a little older than you. Having friends of all ages brings me great joy. ❖

Lamar Middle School Needs Mentors

Bernadette Dodd

Lamar Middle School needs adult mentors to participate in a mentoring program that is run by the Austin Independent School District and supported by Austin Partners in Education. Mentors meet with an individual 6th, 7th or 8th grade student once a week during lunch.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference in a child's life. A short mentor training session is required.

Please call Bernadette Dodd, 7th grade counselor, at 414-4498 or email bdodd@austinisd.org if you are interested in mentoring at Lamar.

We hope to hear from you soon! ❖

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Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

Thanks to APD District Representative (DR) Officer Gary Griffin for coming to the September General ANA meeting. He did a great job explaining the role of a DR and fielding questions. DRs handle situations that are ongoing or involve mediation. They can also look up information for residents regarding a suspicious activity or possible criminal activity, etc. If you just want to report something call 311, if you need an officer immediately call 911, but if you have an issue such as a prolonged problem with a neighbor, ongoing code violation problems, etc., contact Officer Griffin. Officer Griffin serves most of Allandale and can be reached at gary.griffin@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-8392. Officer Rolando Gutierrez covers the most southern portion of Allandale and can be reached at Rolando.gutierrez@ci.austin.tx.us or 974- 5998.

In light of the recent fires in Austin I would be remiss if I did not mention the importance of recording and taking pictures of all of your valuables. The fires bring home the point that we need to know what we have for insurance and replacement purposes. Keep your list of valuables with pictures and serial numbers secure at a site other than your home (not just on your computer because this can be stolen or destroyed), and it's best to keep multiple copies of the list. You never know when you could be burglarized or have your home damaged by a natural disaster. I hope none of you will ever have to deal with these problems but better to be safe than sorry.

Since the June newsletter there have been approximately 24 burglaries of vehicles (BOV), 15 burglaries of residences (BORs), and 18 thefts in Allandale.

In June, BOVs occurred on Shoal Creek, West 49th Street, Shoal Creek West, Strass and Woodview. In at least one of these cases valuables were showing in the vehicle. BORs occurred on Shoal Creek Boulevard, West 49th Street, Stardust, and Shoalwood. Theft was reported on Vine, Daugherty, North Loop, and Yellowpine.

In July, BOVs occurred on Richcreek and Wynona. BORs were reported on Placid Place, Geraghty, and Shoal Creek West. Theft was reported on West

North Loop, Stoneway, Great Northern Boulevard, White Horse Trail, Woodview, and White Rock.

In August, BOVs were reported on Bullard, Placid Place, West Frances, Ardath, Hancock, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Northcross, Shoalwood, and Silvercrest Circle. BORs occurred on Nasco, Woodview, and Great Northern Boulevard. Theft was reported on West 48th Street, Northcross, West North Loop, and Dover.

In September, BOVs were reported on Janey, Placid Place, Ardath, and Great Northern at Stoneway. BORs occurred on West 49 1/2, Addison, and West Park. Theft was noted on West Terrace, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Rickey, and Hancock.

Issues in the last few months have included men breaking bottles on Rickey, a hit and run, a man who has cheated elderly residents, and graffiti.

On September 22, I sent a post to the Allandale List-Serv containing information that an Allandale resident shared with me.

Two men in a white four-door Le Sabre, license number CS18211, had been seen at least two or three times breaking bottles on Rickey. The two men looked alike – close cropped hair, white skin, tattoos all over their arms, about 25-40 years old.

They were not seen outside of the car so height and weight weren't observed.

APD District Rep Officer Gary Griffin was informed and ran the plates, but was unable to obtain information. These men were seen again just sitting in front of a house. Please call 911 if you see anyone breaking bottles in the street and please

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Neighborhood Watch

Continued from page 11

be vigilant if you see this vehicle and/or the described occupants.

Ten days later or so there was a report of a hit and run in which a car parked on Carlisle was damaged. The car that did the damage was thought to be white but the resident wasn't able to get a good description or license number.

Another resident called me last month to inquire if I knew anything about a guy

she had do some jobs around her house and who may have taken off with some of her money. His name is Enrique Mojica (sometimes goes by Rick) and he told her he lives at 211 East Howard Lane. His truck's license plate number is 56T DM8. Officer Griffin was able to find that this man has a history of cheating elderly residents. Please stay away from Enrique Mojica if he offers to do any job for you.

By the time you read this, National Night Out will have already occurred (see

my article on this) and so will the 10/18 Commander's Forum at McCallum High School.

If you are interested in becoming a block captain or patrol, the next training will be Tuesday, November 1, at 6307 Wilbur Drive. Block captain training will be at 7:15 p.m., patrols at 8:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Laura DiCarlo at 323-6929 or lbdicarlo@yahoo.com.

Please contact me if you are interested in borrowing the ANA electric engraver. ❖

National Night Out

Laura DiCarlo

On Tuesday October 4, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. neighborhoods throughout Austin joined with thousands of communities nationwide for the 27th Annual National Night Out (NNO). Actually, most communities did their NNO in August, but due to the heat in Austin, APD has moved ours to the first Tuesday in October every year. According to the City of Austin website, NNO is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations.
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin were asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Events such as cookouts and block parties occurred simultaneously throughout the city, giving everyone an opportunity to meet neighbors and commit to help law enforcement reduce crime.

Block captains organized 24 parties in Allandale and were visited by fire fighters with their trucks, EMS, and police officers. If you were not invited to a party it's because you do not have a block captain near you. Please contact Allandale Neighborhood Watch Coordinator / Safety Chair Laura DiCarlo at 3234-6929 or lbdicarlo@yahoo.com to help remedy that problem. ❖



Austin Firefighters at Michael and Elizabeth Bomba's NNO party

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Restaurant Review: Roll On Sushi Diner

Laura Dooley

Have you noticed the development at 5350 Burnet? It just keeps on growing, this time with the addition of a new sushi place. Roll On Sushi Diner opened in August and has brought its unique take on sushi fusion to our neighborhood.

One of the first things you'll notice upon visiting Roll On Sushi Diner is, well, the "diner" part. Instead of tables, there's a shiny red lunch counter that wraps around the interior. The barstool seating lends itself to interaction with neighbors, as well as being able to watch the chefs at work. I've eaten there twice, and both times I was impressed by the friendliness of the staff and their willingness to answer my food-related questions.

The environment is cool, clean, and Austin-chic. Bright art pops from the walls, and a steady stream of cool tunes, including those from local faves Bob Schneider and Sarah Jarosz, streamed steadily from the speakers.

It's one thing to have a cool vibe, but what about the food? I can attest that the

food at Roll On Sushi is yummy, fresh, and satisfying.

Lubbock natives and brothers Chip and Chad Reed have taken traditional Japanese sushi and kicked it up a few notches by offering sushi rolls in a unique fusion style. Head Chef Ben Crockett, who created the menu with the Reed brothers, is a traditional sushi chef who seems willing to push the boundaries of what people might consider sushi to be.

Roll On's pricing is also unique: each dish on the regular menu, including appetizers, rolls, salads, bowls, and desserts, ranges in price from \$3.95 to \$6.95 per plate. Even better, for the numbers-challenged like me, each price corresponds to a color (for example, all \$3.95 dishes are served on white plates, \$6.95 dishes on

red plates, and so on).

Chip tells me, "We want our menu to be very accessible, and we want people to feel comfortable." To that end, they have included heavily Austin-influenced on the menu, such as the Hippie (tofu, cucumber, red pepper, panang curry, rice, nori, and mint) and the Cholesta Roll (say it fast a few times and you'll get it), which consists of mashed potatoes, grilled

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Restaurant Review: Roll On Sushi Diner

Continued from page 13

steak, and green beans all rolled up and deep-fried. It's then sliced and served with cream gravy.

Traditional sushi aficionados, fear not. "While we focus on fusion, we do traditional really well," says Chip. Roll On Sushi features nigiri, salmon, and yellow-tail on a regular basis alongside more, um, "non-traditional" eats like the Elvis (peanut butter, bacon, and banana roll with mayo or chocolate sauce) and the Rolltalian Stallion (tomato, basil, and mozzarella roll with olive oil and balsamic reduction).

On a lunch date with my husband, I thought it prudent to try as many things as possible. We shared several rolls, along with an appetizer of freshly steamed edamame (\$3.95). My favorite roll that day was the Spicy Tuna Crunch Roll (\$4.95): tempura fried tuna, rice, and nori served with spicy mayo. It was fresh, appropriately spicy, and crunchy. I am not an avocado fan, but Nathan enjoyed the Guaca-Rolly (\$6.95), featuring spicy tuna and tempura shrimp with avocado and spicy mayo. We both liked the Dyno-Mite roll (\$3.95), made up of tempura shrimp, rice, nori, and spicy mayo.

Some time when we have an evening date (what's that again?), we'll partake of

Roll On Sushi's selection of adult beverages, which includes wine, sake and beer. We might even go there on foot.

One of the best things about having a fun new restaurant in our neighborhood is just that: it's in the 'hood and easy to walk or bike to. In fact, Chip said he estimates that 75 percent of his neighborhood clientele either walk or bike to the restaurant. It helps that Roll On Sushi is on "our" side of Burnet; sometimes crossing Burnet on foot or bike can be tricky.

Jennifer McCamish, owner of Dancers Shape (also a 5350 Burnet neighbor), is happy to see Roll On Sushi move in. "They're really nice to work with, their rolls are unique, and they're awesome neighbors," she said. "This area is growing quite a bit, and Roll On offers a new flavor and concept."

Head on over to 5350 Burnet and check out Roll On Sushi, even if you're not a "sushi person." You'll be warmly welcomed and find something unique.

Roll On Sushi

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Hours:

Open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
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Zorro Zoysia, a St. Augustine alternative

Tom Linehan

Casey Burns on 49th Street has an alternative for St. Augustine—Zorro Zoysia. Scrape up what's left of the St. Augustine in your yard and replace it with this hearty turf that can actually survive an Austin summer of direct sun.

Two year ago Casey decided to give up on trying to water his yard to keep it from dying. It was a battle he decided he couldn't win. He set about doing some research on a grass that could survive eight hours of direct sunlight. He came up with is Zorro Zoysia. With normal watering it can take the Austin sun and heat even when we are under Stage 2 water restrictions.

Zoysia requires direct sun and actually grows thinner in the shade. Although the black and white photo doesn't quite convey how the grass looks, you can tell it is a pretty thick turf with no weeds and a fairly even distribution. It's tough; there was no mailman path in his yard.

Casey says the cost of the grass is comparable to the cost for Bermuda grass, which I am told is cheaper than Buffalo Grass, the other drought-tolerant grass that has been suggested. Casey bought three palates of the grass from King Ranch Turf Grass and did all of the

Allandale Neighbors

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Casey Burns barefoot on his Zorro Zoysia lawn

work of putting it down himself. He just did the front lawn (1,600 square feet

requiring three pallets of the Zorro Zoysia) but plans on doing his backyard as well.

I can attest that it is an attractive yard that is tough and yet pleasant to walk barefoot on. Casey offered to have me try it out myself barefooted but that was not necessary. It was obvious that we were standing on barefoot-friendly grass. It reminded me of grass you would find out on a golf-course, and in fact, Casey tells me many golf courses are using it.

The particular type of zoysia he chose – Zorro Zoysia, stays greener longer during the year as opposed to other varieties.

Casey said, it usually goes dormant around November and comes back in February. That might be a problem for those of us who are more mowing-averse, but he said he only has to mow about once every 10 days.

I am sure many of you are like me are ready to give up on St. Augustine. I plan on looking into Zoysia. If you have experience with it and want to comment, please go to the Allandale website and submit a comment. I will have this article on the site where you can add a comment below it – www.allandalereporter.org.

To Rye or not to Rye -- with apologies to Shakespeare

Ginger Soule

It's late in the growing season and we've all got some dead spots (maybe even whole lawns). Should I put down new sod this late? What to do? Seeding with rye, which looks very attractive over the winter, might be just the thing. Bare ground, after all, attracts weed seeds and some of your top soil might wash away if we have "gully washer" rains when this drought lets up.

Annual rye fixes nitrogen so is an excellent soil builder and looks very attractive over the winter. Then in spring, it can be lightly tilled in and the fertility will already be there for the new sod. Its drawback is that it will bolt into bloom and make seeds whenever we get a mid-winter warm spell and as days get longer and warmer in spring. Sow thinly for if it gets too thick it is difficult to mow.

Worst of all, in warming weather, it can go into bloom and rapidly make seeds so that it actually "resows" itself as mowing may not keep the tiny flowers/seed heads cut off. I have observed plants no taller than one inch bloom and set seed resulting in new plants all within the same spring. I tried to stabilize a sloped area and for 10 years after I was pulling rye seedlings out of a gravel drainage area

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To Rye or not to Rye

Continued from page 15

lower on the slope where spring-produced seeds had drifted, no kidding. Usu-

ally, nothing about gardening ruffles my feathers. This did!!!

In beds where you wish to grow vegetables, you may find that a short clover cover crop will be more manageable and

will also fix nitrogen, so it is a good winter crop to precede planting tomatoes in the spring. Tomatoes and other heavy feeding plants will benefit from this naturally produced nitrogen. ❖

Lamar-Safe Routes to School

Jane Herrin

Lamar Middle School Safe Routes to School is an independent program that was founded three years ago by the Lamar PTA. This active committee is made up of local community members, parents and the school administration. Our goal is for a safer, more attractive, pedestrian friendly neighborhood.

So what's new? Bike Racks! Check it out! We now have spaces for 52 bikes! Austin Independent School District (AISD) received a grant to cover the full cost.

We also have new "No Parking" signs on the yellow bus driveway on Burnet

Road. The City of Austin and AISD partnered to make this happen.

Neighbors may have noticed the AISD/Lamar Traffic Plan has been implemented in full force this school year. Now students can be dropped off at the gym and faculty parking lots and in front of the school. AISD will be painting the faculty parking lot to channel traffic as well. Educational programs like bike care, bike rodeo and even a bike club are in the planning stages. This spring will see the Keep Austin Beautiful, Clean Sweep day.

We hope parents consider all the options for school travel. Less traffic makes it safer for pedestrians, bike riders



Newly installed bike racks at Lamar MS

and cars. Walk, bike, car pool, use Capitol Metro or the yellow school bus. Fill up the sidewalks and bike racks and not the gas tank!

For more information about our program email SR2SLamar@aol.com or call Coordinator, Jane H. Herrin 331-4600. ❖

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As of October 9, 2011 there were 39 active listings in the Allandale Neighborhood ranging in price from \$267,526 to \$719,000. The size of homes ranges from 833 s.f. to 3,963 s.f. of living area. Homes were built between 1935 and 1969 with 31 of the 39 listings having been built between 1950 and 1969. There are 17 homes currently under contract which indicates that there is only a 2-3 month inventory of homes available. This is very strong for the current market climate, indicating Allandale is an area of high demand and low turnaround which equates to good market stability. The price per square foot ranges from \$121.73 per square foot of living area to \$336.01. This is a broad range due to the large number of variables between our diverse housing within our community. If you price your home only on a price per square foot basis you could make a mistake that could cost you thousands of dollars. An agent with appraisal training looks at all the variables between homes to fine tune the value range into a more specific and more accurate value estimate. If you are thinking of selling, "You Get More With Les", so why not call today?

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Gullett Good News

Stephanie Schulz

The Geckos are Excited about Carnival, Author Visit

Although school started August 21, it was mid-September before Gullett had its teachers and classes nailed down. AISD's central office "leveled" the schools (that is, they looked at the final numbers of children in classrooms) before determining how many teachers each grade would have. Gullett gained one fourth grade teacher, Heidi Ruenes.

Regardless of unfinished teacher business, kids were excited to start school during our 100-degree streak. Returning faculty and staff were busy focusing on getting students back into the routine of school and working on ways to maintain Gullett's unique and fun character. An anonymous donor helped, giving \$5,000 to the Gullett PTA.

Looking Ahead: Carnival and Claflin

The Geckos are looking ahead to a fun-filled fall. The highlight is the annual carnival, this year on October 29 from

noon to 3 p.m. The carnival team is excited to have it back on the holiday weekend, and is looking for a couple of things from neighbors: adult Halloween costumes and super large appliance size boxes for the maze, which will be in the library this year.

The carnival will also feature local neighborhood musicians and food from our partners, as well as the special things that make carnivals fun – fish tank, Wii tournaments, climbing walls and more. The carnival team is led by Jennifer Swinton. If you would like to contribute time or talents, contact Jennifer at jennifer.swinton@dshs.state.tx.us.

Before the carnival rolls around, Gullett will have an author visit. On October 19, Willy Claflin, writer of *Mother Moose Tales*, will be at Gullett with his "one-man festival." According to Claflin's website, he "covers the spectrum of spoken word entertainment." Claflin offers stories for adults and children and often weaves music into his telling. He is an accomplished acoustic guitar player, singer-song writer and narrative ballad specialist, so the Geckos are in for a treat!

Allandale Community Please Join Us For:

The Annual Gullett Fall Carnival

Saturday, Oct. 29 from 12-3 pm

On school grounds – 6310 Treadwell,
b/t Bullard and Shoalcreek

Featuring: a Haunted House and over 20 other activities and games like a Cup Cake walk, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Giant Hamster Balls, Fortune telling, Pedal car, Putt Putt, fishing game, pumpkin game, facepainting, hair spraying, hair feathering, art, etc.

More than 8 food stands featuring hot dogs, pizza, popcorn, ice cream, cookies, drinks, cotton candy (with glitter!).

Tickets for activities on sale at the school day of. All food is cash only. Please join us and pass on word to your neighbors and friends.

Continued on page 20

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Gullett Good News

Continued from page 19

Celebrating Successes

The first movie night of the year was a hit with lots of Geckos enjoying Tangled and snacks. The Geckos were packed into the cafeteria for a night of movie watching and popcorn eating with their friends.

Dropping kids off at school has changed! Parents and passersby may have noticed a new pattern. Drivers are no longer allowed to stop in front of the school. Kids are spread out across the playground, and can be picked up in these different areas. After parents got accustomed to the new pattern, pick-up was going much better than last year.

Finally, the Geckos set an attendance record for this year's back-to-school skate night. More than 300 Geckos had fun on wheels at Playland Skate Center. The Family Fun Committee was able to add more than \$800 to its funds for the year.

Gecko Fund

Speaking of funds, it's not too late to make a donation to the Gecko Fund. Gullett is asking families to donate \$135 per child so that the school can cover the extras that make Gullett unique. Some of the things the fund helps Gullett do:

- Maintain gardens
- Install a new sound system and projec-

tor in the cafeteria

- Provide Spanish instruction to our students
- Provide classroom materials
- Feed and care for our animals
- Update technology

Find out more about the ways that the Gecko Fund helps the school or donate online at gullettgeckos.com/help/donate.php.

Important upcoming dates:

October 19: Author Visit: Willy Claflin

October 29: noon-3:00 p.m.: Gullett Spooky Carnival

November 14-18: Book Fair ❖

Earwigs

Wizzie Brown

Earwigs, while mostly a nuisance, may scare

homeowners with the sight of their enlarged pincers on the abdomen. Their name comes from a wives' tale that they would enter the ear while a person was sleeping and tunnel into the brain.

Earwigs are somewhat flattened, brown to black in color with large forcep-like pincers coming off the tip of the abdomen. Adults have a pair of shortened, leathery forewings that



cover the membranous hindwings.

Earwigs feed on other insects that are alive or dead. They will also feed on decaying organic matter, lichen, moss, fungi or greasy foods.

When earwigs are found indoors, they are moving in from outside as an accidental invader. The insects can be removed with a vacuum or broom. If large numbers are found indoors, you may need to treat with a residual insecticide outdoors. It may also help your management program to utilize some of the following:

- Replace old weather stripping around doors and windows Seal pipe penetrations and cracks and crevices with sealant
- Keep grass and foliage trimmed around the structure
- Eliminate damp areas in crawl spaces or around the foundation
- Reduce lighting around doors and windows or use yellow bulbs that are less attractive to insects

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com. ❖

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Constable's Notebook

Constable Bruce Elfant

When President Obama declared October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month he said, "During this month we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle of violence. By providing young people with education about healthy relationships, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that domestic violence can be prevented."

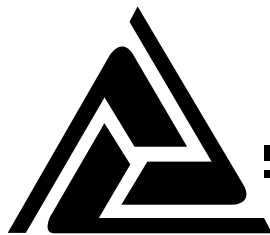
Austin became one of the first communities in the nation to respond to the epidemic of domestic violence when, in 1991, the Austin Police Department instituted a mandatory arrest policy upon probable cause that a domestic violence assault had occurred. Law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, social service providers and many others came together in a shared commitment to reduce domestic violence. Community awareness programs were launched, protective orders were made easier to obtain, laws were strengthened, counseling services were funded, and victim service resources were increased.

As a co-chair of the Austin / Travis County Family Violence Task Force at the time, I really thought that we had turned the corner on domestic violence. Once victims saw that the community would take these cases seriously, more came forward; and for many the violence was stopped earlier than would have otherwise been the case, and the repeat offense rate actually dropped. But the cases kept coming. This year, it is estimated that more than four million Americans will be victims of domestic violence and that about 1,700 will be killed. According to a Texas Council on Family Violence study, one-third of Texans reported that they had been seriously abused at some point in their lives, and three-quarters said that they knew of someone who had experienced some form of domestic violence. In Travis County, applications for protective orders have increased 20 percent and calls to the Safe Place Hotline have increased 27 percent, an all-time high. A vast majority of domestic violence cases are not reported, and fewer than 20 percent of victims will seek medical help.

Today the laws and resources to reduce domestic violence are in place. Perpetra-

tors will be arrested and prosecuted and many agencies offer a wide array of services for victims. What is still needed is a better community-wide understanding of what constitutes domestic violence and the will to take action when we know that it is occurring. Anyone who believes that they are in immediate danger should call 911. The SafePlace hotline at 512-267-SAFE (7233) is staffed around the clock for victims and family, friends, teachers – anyone who has questions or who wants to help. The National Domestic Abuse Hotline, also a 24/7 service, can be reached at 800-799-SAFE (7233). A complete directory of domestic violence resources, including a series of brief videos about obtaining protective orders, teen dating and legal assistance, in English and Spanish, is also available at *Constable5.com*.

Vice President Joe Biden, author of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act said, "I was raised to believe that the cardinal sin any human could commit was to abuse power: economic, physical, or any other kind. Violence against women is the very worst abuse."❖



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Dog Talk: Bits and Pieces

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com
512-454-7219

In this article I am going to share some bits and pieces of information that I hope will be of use to you and your dog.

- Comfortis, a relatively new and excellent flea preventative, is not effective in deterring ticks, so if you and your dog go to settings where ticks are a risk, be sure and use a second product to keep those ticks away. I cannot overstate how pleased I have been with the results of using Comfortis (which I purchase online).

- Now that the weather is beginning to cool down, some folks may begin leaving their dogs out during the day. Be sure to check your fenceline to ensure no gaps have developed and that there are no loose boards that could provide an exit for your dog. Also, be sure and talk with your neighbors about this change and let them know you want to be alerted if your dog begins barking in a manner that becomes a nuisance.

- Liverwurst is an excellent food to use to hide pills. Your dog will go crazy for it.

- If you have a new pup and chewing is an issue, take white stick deodorant (not the translucent stuff) and use a swipe of it on the item they are chewing such as window sills, the corners of coffee tables, the braces between chair legs. You can also use a swipe of it on the dog's leash if she likes to take it in her mouth while on walks. This stuff tastes terrible and is a great deterrent.

- Teach your child to pet a strange dog respectfully –not on the head. After the child has permission to pet the dog, it is best to extend the hand under the dog's chin and scratch under there. If the dog continues to be relaxed, then the child can gradually move his hand around to the back of the neck and stroke the dog. Reaching a hand over the top of the dog's head is intimidating to the dog. To get a sense of what this looks like, have your child get on her hands and knees and then have a standing person reach her hand out over the child's head –the child will see that this hand looks menacing. Then compare that with reaching

under the child's chin.

- If your dogs are kept outside all of the time, consider the reasons for this and then give me a call and we can discuss ways to address your concerns. There are a number of reasons I am concerned about dogs left outside all of the time –one extremely important one is that the animals' guardians do not have the opportunity to observe indicators that there are health problems such as increased water intake, increased urination, unexplained weight loss (despite eating although if there are multiple dogs outside it is impossible to tell who is eating what), vomiting, diarrhea, excessive sleeping, excessive scratching of the ears, etc. When your dog is inside with you these things become immediately apparent and can be addressed in a timely manner.

- If you cannot easily feel your dog's ribs, your dog is overweight and there are easy ways to address this without prescription foods –ways that the dog will enjoy.

• Jay Bolsega, Architect •

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■ Before you add a dog to your household, especially a very young dog, sit down and create a grid that shows each hour of each day of the week and block off the time that is already committed to another task. Have each responsible family member do the same. Then figure out how much time you really have for a new dog who will of course require time, as well.



■ Make arrangements now for your dog for holiday absences. A kennel is, in my opinion, the safest place for your dog. You can start introducing her to the kennel by having a few short visits during the day. If you have friends / relatives with obsessive compulsive disorders <smile> about intense super-

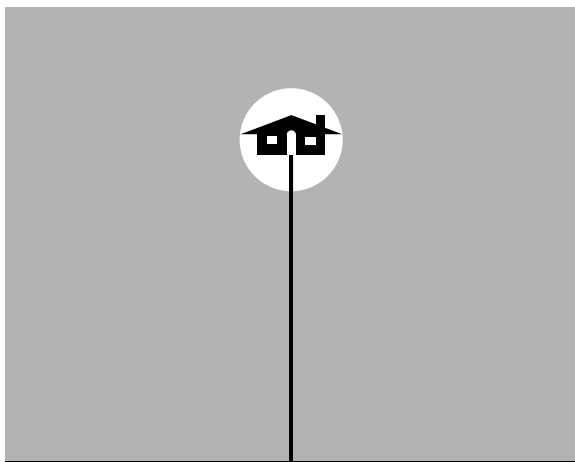
vision of your dog, you might consider that option –I am not joking. You can assume your dog will be stressed by your absence and will become an increased flight risk.

Never hesitate to contact me with ideas for columns and for help. There is never any charge for my help. ❖

TEEA ANNUAL BAZAAR

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 19. This is the date that the Travis Extension Education Association will be having their annual bazaar starting at 8:00 am and ending at 1:00 pm. It will be held again at Faith Lutheran Church located at 6600 Woodrow Ave. between Anderson Lane and Koenig Lane. We will have a large variety of crafts for your Christmas giving, decorations for your home and lots of delicious baked goods, snacks and candies.

Come early to enjoy the breakfast tacos, do your shopping and stay for a delicious lunch of sandwiches, soups and desserts. You will probably meet some of your neighbors because we have a lot of return customers who live in the area and like what we have to sell so they come back every year. One of the clubs will also have a garage sale so we have something for everyone. Hope to see you on Nov. 19.



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